

10/521890
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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A device adapted to facilitate the inserting of objects under a folded roof-(4) stored in a rear boot-(2) of a motor vehicle, the vehicle comprising a body, a passenger compartment, a hood adapted to move between a closed position closing the rear boot and an open position opening said boot, the roof-(4) being movable between a deployed position in which it covers the passenger compartment ~~of the vehicle~~, and a folded, stored position in which the roof-(4) is stored ~~and retracted~~ into the boot-(2), ~~and the roof~~ comprising a rear roof element-(3) and at least one additional roof element-(4 and 5) which is located in front of the rear roof element-(3) when the roof-(4) is in the deployed position, and above the rear roof element-(3) when the roof-(4) is in the folded, stored position, the rear roof element-(3) comprising a finger bar-(14) adapted to slide along a guiding rail-(7) which is ~~fixed~~ to the body-(9) of the vehicle and which comprises a storage section-(12) ~~adapted~~ used to guide the roof-(4) between its deployed position and the folded, stored position, and a raising section-(17) extending along the storage section-(12) and adapted to guide the folded roof-(4) between its folded, stored position and a folded, raised position in which, the hood-(15) of the rear boot-(2) being in the open position, the folded roof-(4) at least partially projects out of the boot (2), the device comprising a raising device-(16) mounted in a movable manner between a low position and a high position, and adapted to guide the finger bar-(14) along the raising section-(17), wherein a securing means-(23) is fitted to the raising device-(16) in a movable manner between an open position and a closed position in which the securing means-(23) is adapted to support ~~each~~ and to immobilize said at least one additional roof element-(4 and 5) ~~and to immobilize each additional roof element-(4 and 5)~~ with respect to the rear roof element-(3), when the roof-(4) is moved between its folded, stored position and its folded, raised position.

2. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 1, wherein the securing means-(23) is located behind ~~to~~ and in the immediate vicinity of the

additional roof-elements ~~(4 and 5)~~ element when the roof ~~(1)~~ is in the folded, raised position.

3. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the securing means ~~(23)~~ is rotary mounted with respect to the raising device ~~(16)~~, around ~~an~~ a transverse axis of rotation ~~(24)~~ transversal to the vehicle and located behind the said at least one additional roof-elements ~~(4 and 5)~~ element when the roof ~~(1)~~ is in the folded, stored position.

4. (Currently amended) The device set forth in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein a groove ~~(22)~~ integral to the body ~~(9)~~ is used to guide the an end of the raising arm ~~(16)~~ adjacent to the securing means ~~(23)~~.

5. (Currently amended) The device set forth in ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 4, wherein said at least one additional roof element comprises a plurality of additional roof elements, and the securing means ~~(23)~~ has a ~~comprises, on its front~~ face ~~(25)~~ including, and for each additional roof element ~~(4 and 5)~~, a recess ~~(26 and 27)~~ adapted to receive, in the closed position, a stub ~~(28 and 29)~~ which is integral to the corresponding additional roof element ~~(5 and 4)~~.

6. (Currently amended). The device set forth in claim 5, wherein it comprises, for each additional roof element ~~(4 and 5)~~, a bearing surface ~~(44 and 43)~~ adapted to support the corresponding additional roof element ~~(4 and 5)~~ when the securing means ~~(23)~~ is in the open position and the roof ~~(1)~~ is in the folded, stored position.

7. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 6, wherein:

- each recess ~~(26 and 27)~~ is delimited by an upper side wall ~~(41 and 42)~~ and by a lower side wall ~~(39 and 40)~~ which projects forward past the corresponding upper side wall ~~(41 and 42)~~ and which defines the corresponding bearing surface ~~(43 and 44)~~.
- the additional roof elements comprise a central roof element and a front roof element which is located in front of the central roof element when the roof is in the

deployed position, and above the central roof element when the roof is in the folded, stored position, and
-the additional roof elements are arranged so that, when the roof is close to its folded, stored position, the stub of the central roof element is located further forward than the stub of the front roof element so as not to push against the bearing surface of the stub of the front roof element.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 6, wherein all the bearing surfaces ~~(43 and 44)~~ are located on a support element ~~(45)~~ which is fitted to the raising device ~~(16)~~ in a movable manner between an admission position and a reception position in which each bearing surface ~~(44 and 43)~~ is adapted to support the corresponding additional roof element ~~(4 and 5)~~ when the roof ~~(1)~~ is in the folded, stored position.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim ~~9 or 10~~, wherein,
- the additional roof elements ~~(4 and 5)~~ being constituted of comprise a central roof element ~~(4)~~ and a front roof element ~~(5)~~ which is located in front of the central roof element ~~(4)~~ when the roof ~~(1)~~ is in the deployed position, and above the central roof element ~~(4)~~ when the roof ~~(1)~~ is in the folded position, and wherein
- the support element ~~(45)~~ comprises a lower leg ~~(47)~~ and an upper leg ~~(48)~~ fixed to each other, each being adapted to respectively define the bearing surface ~~(44)~~ of the central roof element ~~(4)~~ and that ~~(43)~~ of the front roof element ~~(5)~~, when the support element ~~(45)~~ is in the reception position.

12. (Currently amended) The device set forth in ~~any one of claims 9 to 11~~, wherein:
- activating means ~~(49)~~ are used to bring into contact the support element ~~(45)~~ and to guide it from its admission position to its reception position, and,

- said activating means comprise the stub of the central roof element which is used to bring into contact the lower leg when the support element is in the admission position and when the roof, whilst folding, is in an intermediate position adjacent to its folded, stored position, and to guide the support element until it reaches its reception position when the roof moves from its intermediate position to its folded, stored position.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 9, wherein, when the roof ~~(4)~~ is in the folded, stored position, the securing means ~~(23)~~ is in the closed position and the support element ~~(45)~~ is in the reception position, each stub ~~(28 and 29)~~ is inserted into a cavity ~~(51 and 52)~~ defined by the corresponding bearing surface ~~(43 and 44)~~ of the support element ~~(45)~~ and the corresponding recess ~~(26 and 27)~~ of the securing means ~~(23)~~.

16. (Currently amended) The device set forth in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 15~~, wherein controlling means ~~(30)~~ are used to bring the securing means ~~(23)~~ into contact therewith and to guide it from its open position and its closed position.

17. (Currently amended) The device set forth in claim 16, wherein:
- the controlling means ~~(30)~~ are disposed on the rear roof element ~~(3)~~, and
- the controlling means comprise a push button mounted so as to be movable in a straight line with a guide fixed to the rear roof element, between a normal position and a stop position in which the securing means is in the closed position, said push button being adapted to come into contact with a contact surface located on a front face of the securing means.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The device set forth in ~~claim 18 dependent on claim 3~~ claims 5 and 17, wherein:

- the axis of rotation ~~(24)~~ is located between the contact surface ~~(34)~~ and the recesses ~~(26 and 27)~~.

- a nut fixed to the push button is used to engage a threaded end of a rotative arm extended along a direction, so as to guide the push button in a straight line according to the direction of extension of the arm, and

- an end of the arm opposite the threaded end is fixed to a motor attached to the rear roof element.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in ~~any of claims 1 to 22~~, wherein:

- folding and unfolding the roof is controlled by at least one deployment arm and guided by at least one building rail, and,

- the said at least one deployment arm (6) is connected to the rear link arm (13) linking the rear roof element (3) to the adjacent, additional roof element (4), by means of a gearing mechanism (53) and in that a disengaging mechanism (58) is used to disengage the deployment arm (6) from the gearing mechanism (53).

24. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in claim 23, wherein the gearing mechanism ~~(53)~~ comprises an upstream sprocket ~~(54)~~ which is fixed to an end of the deployment arm ~~(6)~~ and which is rotary mounted to the rear roof element ~~(3)~~ around a hinge line ~~(10)~~, a downstream sprocket ~~(55)~~ which is fixed to an end of a rear link arm ~~(13)~~ by which the rear roof element ~~(3)~~ is linked to the additional roof element ~~(4)~~ adjacent to it, and which is rotary mounted to the rear roof element ~~(3)~~ around an axis of transmission ~~(56)~~, and a central sprocket ~~(57)~~ which is rotary

mounted to the rear roof element-(3) and which is driven by the upstream sprocket (54)-and the downstream sprocket-(55).

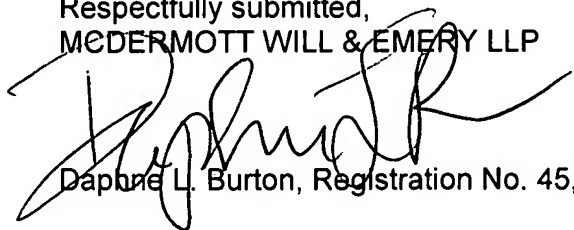
25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) The device set forth in ~~any of claims claim 1 to 27,~~ wherein folding and unfolding the roof is controlled by at least one deployment arm and guided by at least one guiding rail, and, a ~~the~~ hinge line-(10) around which the rear roof element-(3) is fitted in a movable manner to ~~the~~ said at least one deployment arm-(6) guiding the roof-(1) between its deployed, stored position and its folded position and the swivel axis-(19) around which the raising device-(16) is fitted in a movable manner to the body (9)of the vehicle are coaxial when the roof-(1) is in its folded, stored position.

Respectfully submitted,
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